Attempt to resolve Ayodhya dispute

†1117. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has tried to resolve Ram-Janam Bhoomi dispute of Ayodhya out of court through dialogues between both the parties;

(b) if so, the details of the parties whose representatives have been included in the dialogue;

(c) whether Government has prepared any proposal as a base for dialogue; and

(d) if so, the details of the draft of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (d) The Government is firmly of the view that the Ayodhya dispute can be resolved, either through mutual agreement among all the parties concerned, or through the verdict of the judiciary. Therefore, pending judicial verdict, the Government will continue to facilitate all attempts at an amicable and speedy resolution of the dispute.

Stringent punishment for rape and sexual abuse

1118. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the Law Commission in its 172nd Report recommended for incorporation of new provisions in criminal laws to provide stringent punishment for offences of rape and sexual abuse of children;

(b) if so, the details therefor and what are the other major recommendations made by the Commission;

(c) whether the Law Commission has also suggested for higher

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

punishment under section 509 of IPC which deals with intend to insult the modesty of women; and

(d) if so, what action the Ministry has taken on these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The Law Commission of India has recommended changes for widening the scope of offence in section 375 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 and to make it gender neutral. Various other changes have been recommended in sections 376, 376A to 376D. The Commission has also recommended insertion of a new section 376E dealing with unlawful sexual contact, deletion of section 377 of the IPC and enhancement of punishment in section 509 of IPC. Various changes in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 have also been recommended.

(d) State Governments have been requested for their views on the recommendations of the Law Commission of India as the Criminal Law is on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India.

Alleged links between Naxalites and ISI Agencies

1119. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Home Ministry is aware of the press reports from Midnapur in West Bengal on alleged links between naxalites and Pakistan intelligence agency ISI;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Home Ministry is also aware of the links between the naxalities and the militant groups of North East and Sri Lanka; and

(d) if so the details of the nexus and steps to prevent their combined operation in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) and (b) In the absence of details regarding the newspaper and the